



## HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

### DAMS FILE COLLECTION

#### BOOK D04

## TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS



*Donald E. Ashe, Register  
Hampden County Registry of Deeds,  
a Division of the Office of  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth*

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Smith Dam

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Pierce Dam



1941 Chester

Dam located on the Westfield River in Chester.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Pierce Dam
Name	Pierce, A F
Water	Westfield River





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# County of Hampden

Springfield, Mass.

Office of the  
County Commissioners

Thomas J. Costello  
Chairman

Charles M. Bray  
Edward J. Stapleton

August 27, 1941

Mr. A. F. Pierce  
Huntington, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253 Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby notified that your dam on Westfield River in Chester has been inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"The planking of this low log crib spillway dam is broken down along its top and should be repaired by new planking, if the structure is to be continued in use."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By Thomas J. Costello  
Chairman

Charles M. Bray

Edward J. Stapleton

Dear Sirs—

I will see that the planking is replaced very soon I have to do this nearly every summer as it gets broken by the ice going out.  
Yours Resph A. F. Pierce

Blandford Dam



1941 Chester

Also see: Dam Report Section - Letter dated 8-11-1969 - Chester.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Blandford Dam

CHESTER  
D04002

BLANDFORD DAM

NO IMAGE ON FILE FOR THIS RECORD

(INFORMATION EXISTS ONLY ON A FILE CARD FROM THE  
OFFICE OF THE FORMER HAMPDEN COUNTY ENGINEER.)

**Boulder Park Dam**



o Chester

Located in Chester State Forest.

Abutters	Chester State Forest
City/Town	Chester
City/Town	Chester Town Water Department
Dam	Boulder Park Dam
Name	Massachusetts Comm

CHESTER  
D04003

BOULDER PARK DAM

NO IMAGE ON FILE FOR THIS RECORD

(INFORMATION EXISTS ONLY ON A FILE CARD FROM THE  
OFFICE OF THE FORMER HAMPDEN COUNTY ENGINEER.)



Cherry Brook Dam & Reservoir



o Chester

Located on Cherry Brook.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Cherry Brook Dam & Reservoir
Water	Cherry Brook

CHESTER  
D04004

CHERRY BROOK DAM & RESERVOIR

NO IMAGE ON FILE FOR THIS RECORD

(INFORMATION EXISTS ONLY ON A FILE CARD FROM THE  
OFFICE OF THE FORMER HAMPDEN COUNTY ENGINEER.)

Chester Town Fire District Dam No 1 fka Chester Town Water Works Dam



1926 Chester

Intake Reservoir Dam (lower) located on Austin Brook. See also: County Roads plan # 2 (1956)  
"Addition to Chester Water Supply Dam-Chester Water Department".

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Chester Town Water Works Dam
Dam	Chester Town Fire District Dam No 1
Water	Austin Brook

WATER SUPPLY  
SEWERAGE  
SEWAGE DISPOSAL  
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

**TIGHE & BOND, INC.**  
**CONSULTING ENGINEERS**  
**BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS**  
**HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3991**  
**GEORGE H. McDONNELL**  
**PHILIP W. SHERIDAN**

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS  
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES  
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT  
WASTE DISPOSAL

*Letter  
mailed*  
Oct. 11, 1957

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners  
Hampden County Court House  
Elm Street  
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the dam owned by the Chester Water Dept., Chester, Mass. This dam has been improved in accordance with a plan and specifications filed with your Board and on which an Interlocutory Decree was issued as per Sept. 26, 1957.

The work of raising and improving the dam of the Chester Water Department as shown on the plan and specifications filed Sept. 7, 1956 has been completed in accordance with the said plan and specifications and is therefore recommended to your Honorable Board for acceptance.

Respectfully submitted,

*George H. McDonnell*  
George H. McDonnell  
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mb

Oct. 11, 1957

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners  
Hampden County Court House  
Elm Street  
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the dam owned by the Chester Water Dept. ,  
Chester, Mass. This dam has been improved in accordance with  
a plan and specifications filed with your Board and on which an  
Interlocutory Decree was issued as per Sept. 26, 1957.

The work of raising and improving the dam of the Chester Water  
Department as shown on the plan and specifications filed Sept. 7,  
1956 has been completed in accordance with the said plan and  
specifications and is therefore recommended to your Honorable  
Board for acceptance.

Respectfully submitted,

---

George H. McDonnell  
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/mb

April 28, 1926

Chester Water Works,  
Chester, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your reservoir dam, located on Austin Brook so-called in the Town of Chester, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following recommendations made by him;

"The spillway, which is fifteen feet in length, is in the middle of the dam. Its crest shows some erosion between the joints of the stone-work which should be pointed. Otherwise, the dam is in good condition."

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Chairman.

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Page 14 of report

ster Water Works,  
Chester, Mass.

you are notified that your  
reservoir dam, located on Rusten Brook so called  
in the Town of Chester, etc,

"The spillway, which is fifteen feet  
in length, is in the middle of the dam.  
Its crest shows some erosion between  
the joints of the stone-work which  
should be pointed. Otherwise, the  
dam is in good condition."

Charles F. Lincoln, Esq.

April 26, 1933

Board of Water Commissioners,  
Chester Fire District,  
Chester, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your lower or Intake Reservoir Dam, located on Austin Brook, in the Town of Chester, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following condition noted and recommendation made by him;

"The structure is stable, but there is some erosion in the joints of the stonework in and around the crest of the spillway which should be pointed."

Now, therefore, in accordance with Section 46 of said Chapter 253, it is ordered that the above recommendation be complied with in a reasonable length of time.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Check in book*

Cook Brook Dam



o Chester

Also see: Dam Report Section - Chester.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Cook Brook Dam
Water	Cook Brook

CHESTER  
D04006

COOK BROOK DAM

NO IMAGE ON FILE FOR THIS RECORD

(INFORMATION EXISTS ONLY ON A FILE CARD FROM THE  
OFFICE OF THE FORMER HAMPDEN COUNTY ENGINEER.)

Newell Dam



1947 Chester

New dam was constructed between 1947-1948 on Kinney Brook.

Dam	Newell Dam
Name	Newell, Homer E
Water	Kinney Brook

2  
November 22, 1950

Mr. H. E. Newell  
Kinney Brook Road  
Chester, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located on Kinney Brook in Chester has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"The concrete apron or footing downstream from the notch overflow is being eroded and should be watched for excessive destruction of concrete in 1951. Repairs to the concrete will probably be necessary within the next year."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By Thomas F. Sullivan  
Chairman

William F. Stapleton

Francis M. O'Keefe

Acting  
County  
Commissioner



Hamilton Emery & Carborundum Company Dam



1933 Chester

Located on a canal leading from the west branch of the Westfield River , up stream from plant.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Hamilton Emery & Carborundum Company Dam
Name	Hamilton Emery & Carborundum Company
Water	Westfield River

April 26, 1933

Hamilton Emery & Corundum Co.,  
Chester, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 334 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your forebay dam, located on a canal leading from the West Branch of the Westfield River in the Town of Chester, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him;

"At the westerly end of the dam the deck planking is not in very good shape and requires repairs. The cribwork at the north end of the dam seems to be yielding somewhat, and should be overhauled and strengthened if the owner intends to keep the structure in commission."

Now, therefore, in accordance with Section 46 of said Chapter 253, it is ordered that the above recommendation be complied with in a reasonable length of time.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By

October 14, 1953

Hamilton Emery & Carborundum Co.  
Chester,  
Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located just upstream from your plant in Chester has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"The dam in the vicinity of the right abutment is about to be breached at the point of junction of the dam with the canal wall. The structure has been deteriorating for the past few years and is now at a point where failure of the structure by breaching near the canal wall could take place. Since the pond above the dam is very small and shallow, no damage would result downstream from a breach of the structure. It is recommended that the owner's attention be called to the existing conditions for his information purposes. Repairs are not necessarily needed unless the owner desires to maintain a head of water."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Eastman Dam fka Alderman Dam



1930 Chester

Located on middle branch of the Westfield River in North Chester.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Eastman Dam
Dam	Alderman Dam
Name	Ideal Lodge
Name	Smith, Hugh C
Name	Alderman, Ernest L
Name	Eastman, Harry O
Water	Westfield River

April 23, 1933.

Mr. Ernest L. Alderman, ✓  
Huntington, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 253 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 324 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that your dam, located on the Middle Branch of the Westfield River, in the Town of Chester, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him;

"There is heavy leakage through the structure, both in the sheathing of the sloped deck and between the base of the dam and the ledge foundation. This leakage should be stopped by repairing the deck and making it tight, and also by depositing gravel along the upstream toe of the structure where needed."

Now, therefore, in accordance with Section 46 of said Chapter 253, it is ordered that the above recommendation be complied with in a reasonable length of time.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman.

August 7, 1940

Mr. Harry O. Eastman

Huntington, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby notified that your dam on the Middle Branch of the Westfield River in Chester has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him;

"The crest of the planking of this log dam, for a distance of 40 feet from its east end abutment, is broken off and should be repaired. Likewise, sags in the rest of the structure should be taken out and the crest levelled up."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# RETURN RECEIPT

Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.

*Henry O. Eastman*

(Signature or name of addressee)

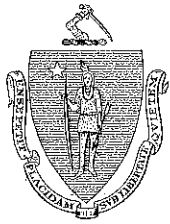
*Q*

(Signature of addressee's agent)

Date of delivery, *Aug 12*, 19*40*

Form 3911

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

COPY

Office of the  
County Commissioners  
52 State Street

# County of Hampden

William F. Stapleton  
Chairman

Thomas F. Sullivan  
Ralph H. Walsh

Springfield, Mass.

August 20, 1969

The Ideal Lodge  
North Chester, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam, located on Middle Branch of the Westfield River in North Chester, has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"The crest of this dam has poor alignment. There is a bulge at about the  $1/3$  point from the left abutment. This bulge was noted in previous inspection reports. The crest planking appears to be in relatively good condition.

The left abutment is still poor. At the right abutment failure has occurred as pointed out previously. In the past the void at the right abutment, adjacent to the large tree, was completely filled with rock. During the recent inspection it was noted that the void between the right end of the timber dam and the stream bank is larger than ever. Though some rock is filling part of the void, the right abutment area could now begin a chain reaction of failure which might eventually effect the entire dam. The width of the void is about 5' at the crest alignment.

The amount of water stored by this dam is quite small. The basin upstream of the dam has been nearly filled with gravel and boulders washed in by flood flows of past years.

Though the dam as existing is quite dilapidated, shows evidence of failing and it definitely has experienced a minor failure at the right end in the vicinity of the abutment, the structure does not endanger persons and property downstream. The dam as existing is nothing more than a low water fall in the stream. The difference in water level elevation between the surface of the water stored by the dam and the water level of the stream at the toe of the dam, is only about two feet.

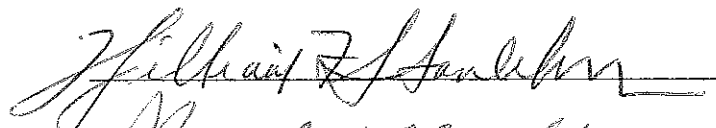
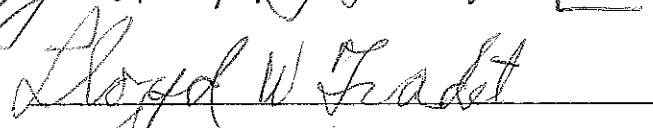
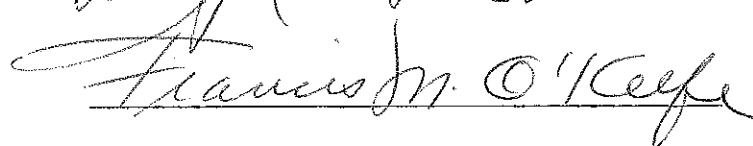
It is recommended that the owner be sent a copy of this report and be advised that unless better protective measures are taken at the right end of the dam, and unless the structure receives continuous maintenance, it is possible that failure as now experienced could result in the eventual loss of the dam. "

The County Hydraulic Engineer points out that your dam is in poor condition and without proper maintenance, present small failures may develop into more serious failures which could result in the complete loss of the dam. Because so little water is stored by the dam, it does not endanger persons and property downstream. The report of the County Hydraulic Engineer is sent to you with our recommendation that if the dam is of value to you, than it should be maintained properly and corrective action taken at the various points of present failure.

Any further information concerning this matter will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Huntington Fire District Dam



1955 Chester

Water Supply Dam serving the Huntington Fire District and located to the southwest of Route 20 on Cold Brook.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Huntington Fire District Dam
Name	Huntington Town Fire District
Streets	Route 20
Water	Cold Brook

WATER SUPPLY  
SEWERAGE  
SEWAGE DISPOSAL  
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

**TIGHE & BOND, Inc.**  
**CONSULTING ENGINEERS**  
189 HIGH STREET  
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS  
GEORGE H. McDONNELL  
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS  
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES  
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT  
WASTE DISPOSAL  
C-D

October 31, 1955

The Hon. the Board of County Commissioners  
Hampden County Court House  
Elm Street  
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:


On Wednesday, October 25, 1955, I inspected the dam of the Huntington Fire District and find that repairs have been completed and that minor alterations to the dam have been made in accordance with verbal discussions between the undersigned and officials of the Huntington Fire District. The earth fill from in front of the masonry dam washed out in the August flood has been replaced. This earth fill section is considerably larger than the original section. The capacity of the spillway has been increased by the lowering of the crest through the removal of the top layer of masonry.

Minor damage occurred as a result of the heavy rain storm of October 15th and 16th. Most of this damage has occurred to the road leading to the dam.

After reviewing the spillway and dam now existing, it would seem advisable to raise that portion of the dam to the left of the spillway, that is on the opposite side of the spillway from the gate house to elevation of at least 3.5 feet above the crest of the spillway. This would result in the top of the dam on both sides of the spillway being about the same elevation. By so doing, the capacity of the spillway will be increased and the possibility of the earth fill being washed out from the foot of the masonry dam on the left part of the spillway will be minimized. The raising of the dam as herein suggested would require the raising of the masonry wall on the left side of the spillway. The side walls of the spillway chute are not high enough to properly contain the cascading waters during time of heavy overflow. These side walls should be raised to prevent the cascading waters from damaging the earth fill.

The above mentioned work should be planned by the District to be undertaken in 1956, and consequently it would seem advisable to recommend to the officials of the Fire District to provide funds in their budget for the coming year, to finance the suggested improvements.

Respectfully submitted,

  
George H. McDonnell  
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/emmm

November 2, 1955

Board of Water Commissioners  
Huntington Fire District  
Huntington, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Your dam has been inspected by our County Hydraulic Engineer and he has made certain recommendations regarding improvements to the structure that will increase the overflow capacity and thus allow the handling of larger storm flows. His report to this Board contains the following:

"After reviewing the spillway and dam now existing, it would seem advisable to raise that portion of the dam to the left of the spillway, that is on the opposite side of the spillway from the gate house to elevation of at least 3.5 feet above the crest of the spillway. This would result in the top of the dam on both sides of the spillway being about the same elevation. By so doing, the capacity of the spillway will be increased and the possibility of the earth fill being washed out from the foot of the masonry dam on the left part of the spillway will be minimized. The raising of the dam as herein suggested would require the raising of the masonry wall on the left side of the spillway. The side walls of the spillway chute are not high enough to properly contain the cascading waters during time of heavy overflow. These side walls should be raised to prevent the cascading waters from damaging the earth fill.

"The above mentioned work should be planned to be undertaken in 1956, and consequently it would seem advisable to recommend to the officials of the Fire District to provide funds in their budget for the coming year, to finance the suggested improvements."

This Board concurs in the recommendation of the Engineer. Any further information which you may desire on this matter will be furnished by this office on request.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



WATER SUPPLY  
SEWERAGE  
SEWAGE DISPOSAL  
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

TIGHE & BOND, Inc.  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
BOWERS AND PEQUOT STREETS  
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS  
GEORGE H. McDONNELL  
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN

DAMS & POWER INSTALLATIONS  
HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES  
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT  
WASTE DISPOSAL

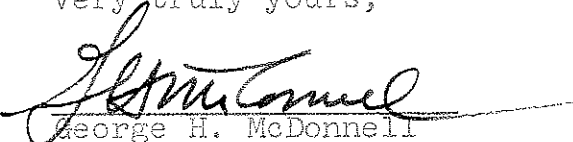
C.D. Chester  
Oct. 25, 1956

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners  
Hampden County Courthouse  
31 Elm Street  
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In reference to the letter of Sept. 26, 1956, from Wm. E. Wellspeak, Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners of Huntington, Mass., I have inspected their dam and find that the improvements have been completed in accordance with good workmanship and that the dam is satisfactory at the present time.

Very truly yours,

  
George H. McDonnell  
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/f

C.D. Chester  
Oct. 25, 1956

The Hon. The Board of County Commissioners  
Hampden County Courthouse  
31 Elm Street  
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In reference to the letter of Sept. 26, 1956, from Wm. E. Wellspeak, Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners of Huntington, Mass., I have inspected their dam and find that the improvements have been completed in accordance with good workmanship and that the dam is satisfactory at the present time.

Very truly yours,

George H. McDonnell  
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/r

Sept. 26, 1956

Board of County Commissioners:  
Springfield, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Wish to inform you that the work on certain recommendations regarding improvements of our dam has been completed.

The raising of the cement dam as suggested will undoubtedly properly take care of waters during the time of heavy overflow.

Very truly yours -

William E. Kelly  
Chairman, Board of Water Commissioners  
Huntington, Mass.

copy of this letter sent to Mr. McDonnell on  
September 27, 1956.

August 19, 1964

Board of Water Commissioners  
Huntington Fire District  
Huntington, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your water supply dam serving the Huntington Fire District and located to the southwest of Route 20 on Cold Brook, has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

" The embankment of this dam is still covered with brush. Brush growth to the left of the spillway was so thick that it was not possible to make a good inspection of the dam. Any burrow holes or erosion that may exist on the surface of the embankment cannot be seen because of the thick weed and brush growth. The owner of the dam should again be notified of the condition and be advised that in order to properly maintain and protect the dam, the surface of the structure, particularly on the top and on the dry face side, should be covered with a good growth of turf kept cut and free of weeds and brush.

No maintenance work has been done on the spillway. Many of the spillway steps need attention and the replacement of eroded concrete. The sidewalls of the spillway also need grouting of voids and cracks. "

In 1962 and again in 1963, our Board pointed out to your Board the need for proper maintenance of the dam embankment by keeping the surface of this

earth and rock fill free of brush and tree growth so that proper inspections of the embankment can be made from time to time by personnel of your Department as well as by the County Hydraulic Engineer. Dam embankments can be best maintained and consequently, are better from a safety viewpoint, if the surface of the embankment is covered with a good growth of sod and grass. Such a growth can only be promoted by keeping weeds and brush cut down, by loaming, seeding and fertilizing as necessary from time to time.

Your water supply dam is a small structure and would not require many man hours of labor to operate a proper annual maintenance program. The dam is apparently an essential part of your water supply system and it is urged that you make every effort to keep the dam in a good state of repair.

The recommended repairs to the spillway masonry as set forth in the report of the County Hydraulic Engineer should be completed within the next year.

We respectfully call your attention to the requirements and provisions of Chapter 253 of the General Laws and to your responsibility to maintain a safe and properly operated dam.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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October 19, 1960

Board of Water Commissioners  
Huntington Fire District  
Huntington, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your water supply dam serving the Huntington Fire District and located to the southwest of Route 20 on Cold Brook, has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"The dam was found to be in fairly good condition. The embankment section to the left of the spillway should be cleared of brush and young tree growth so that any need for maintenance of the surface of the earth embankment can be readily observed by Water Works personnel and so that the dam can be properly inspected by the undersigned. The masonry wall on each side of the spillway chute should be patched where needed to seal broken and cracked joints."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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GEORGE H. McDONNELL  
PHILIP W. SHERIDAN  
EDWARD J. BAYON

**TIGHE  
& BOND**

**CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

CIVIL, SANITARY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING  
INVESTIGATIONS, REPORTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS  
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

BOWERS AND PEOUOT STREETS  
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS  
TEL. JEFFERSON 3-3391

CD Chester ✓  
March 17, 1969

Board of Water Commissioners  
Huntington Fire District  
Huntington, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:


Reference is made to your dam in the Town of Chester, and the fact that there now exists a heavy snow cover throughout Western Massachusetts. The water content of this snow cover, coupled with a warm spring rain could result in extremely heavy runoff conditions. Consequently, the Commissioners of Hampden County have directed that I advise you to be sure that the spillway facilities at your dam are clear of any obstruction and that you take all precautions necessary to protect your dam as well as persons and property downstream.

It is advisable that you check the spillway facility at your dam and be sure that all flashboards have been removed from the crest.

In regard to your storage reservoir in Montgomery, please be sure that the flashboards have been removed from the spillway.

If you have any question in connection with this matter, the undersigned can be reached at the above address and telephone number.

Very truly yours,

  
George H. McDonnell  
County Hydraulic Engineer

GHM/amd



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

COPY

# County of Hampden

Springfield, Mass.

Office of the  
County Commissioners  
52 State Street

William F. Stapleton  
Chairman

Ralph P. Walsh  
Mloyd W. Fradet

August 20, 1969

Board of Water Commissioners  
Huntington Fire District  
Huntington, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your water supply dam serving the Huntington Fire District and located to the southwest of Route 20 on Cold Brook, has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"This dam is again in need of routine maintenance and attention. As reported from time to time in the past, each of the surfaces on the embankment sections, particularly the main section located to the left of the spillway, is covered with a heavy growth of brush and weeds. The growth was so thick that on the day of inspection, Thursday, August 7th, surface embankment of this dam could not be properly checked for condition.

Water in storage was at the permanent crest of the masonry spillway and a thin sheet of water passed over the spillway. There were no flashboards on the crest.

The spillway needs attention in that cracks and worn areas in the sidewalls and steps of the spillway masonry should receive attention.



August 20, 1969

The toe area of both embankment sections appeared dry. It was difficult to examine the toe of the left or main embankment section because of the thick brush growth. The Board of Water Commissioners of the Huntington Fire District should be directed to maintain this dam in a proper manner."

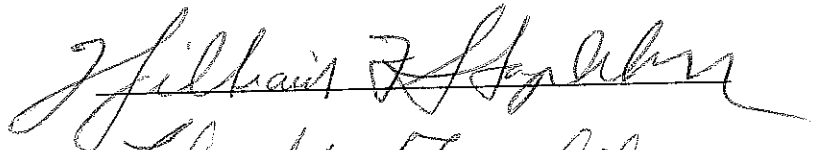
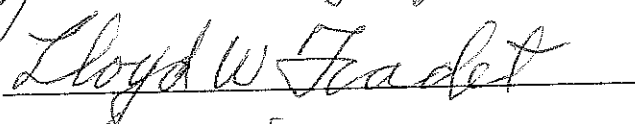
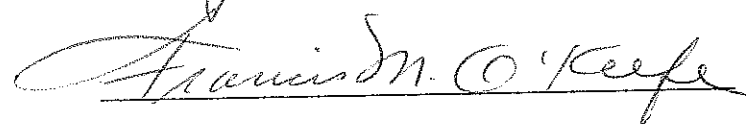
As recommended by the County Hydraulic Engineer, we are sending to you the above report for your information and action. The elimination of brush and weed growth from the earth embankment of the dam and the development of a well maintained sod growth provides the best protection for the surface of the embankment sections. It is urged that the Huntington Fire District establish a maintenance program at this dam to properly control weed and brush growth and to develop a good sod cover.

The recommended repairs to the spillway should be accomplished within the next 12 months.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Pearce Dam



1956 Chester

Also See Dam Report Section - Chester.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Pearce Dam

CHESTER  
D04012

PEARCE DAM

NO IMAGE ON FILE FOR THIS RECORD

(INFORMATION EXISTS ONLY ON A FILE CARD FROM THE  
OFFICE OF THE FORMER HAMPDEN COUNTY ENGINEER.)

Harry Dam fka Day Dam fka Donnellan Dam



1951 Chester

Located on Middle Branch of the Westfield River in North Chester.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Donnellan Dam
Dam	Harry Dam
Dam	Day Dam
Name	Day
Name	Harry, R G
Name	Donnellan, Arthur L
Name	Ideal Lodge
Water	Westfield River

August 1, 1951

Mr. Arthur L. Donnellan  
Morgan Street  
South Hadley, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located on the middle branch of the Westfield River, near North Chester in the Town of Chester, has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"The easterly abutment wall, constructed of wooden piling, is quite dilapidated. Its repair or replacement is advisable in order to prevent the river water from washing around the easterly end of the dam in times of high runoffs."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By William F. Stapleton  
Chairman

Thomas F. Sullivan

Francis M. O'Keefe

Acting County  
Commissioner

*Chester*

October 14, 1953

*originally the  
Day Date, then  
Arthur L. Donnellan Dam  
and now*

Mr. R. G. Harry  
Ideal Lodge  
River Road  
(No. Chester)  
Chester, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45 et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your dam located on Middle Branch of the Westfield River, just southeast-erly of your home, has been recently inspected by our Engineer, and your attention is called to the follow-ing conditions noted and recommendations made by him:

"The dam is becoming dilapidated and leaking under the right abutment. The conditions at present are not dangerous but if the dam is to be maintained in good operating condition it should be repaired and the leak plugged. The leak seems to be coming through under the roots of a large tree at the right abutment of the dam."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Smith Dam



o Chester

May also be known as Hugh C. Smith Dam. Also See: Dam Report Section - Chester.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Smith Dam
Name	Smith, Hugh C
Name	Ideal Lodge

CD Chester

August 14, 1959

Mr. Hugh C. Smith  
River Road  
No. Chester, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et. seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your Dam located on Middle Branch of the Westfield River in North Chester, has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"This dam is in the same general condition as reported a year ago. Leakage under the large tree at the right abutment of the dam is apparently about at the same rate as noted in past years. However, the tree seems to be a bit more undermined and much of the root structure seems to have had the earth washed away. The left abutment is still dilapidated and in need of maintenance and repairs.

The dam itself is in good condition. The dam is a timber crib structure and the line as well as the grade of the crest of the



water stored is not great. However, corrective action taken now at a small cost could save the owner of the dam a large expense in plugging the breach should the right abutment be lost due to flood flow or over-topping of the tree due to a wind storm. It would seem advisable to cut down the tree and replace it with another tree if shade is desirable in this area. "

The information as contained in the report of the Engineer is sent to you herein so that you may take whatever action you wish regarding the protection of one or both of the abutments of your dam. As was pointed out by the County Hydraulic Engineer, the condition at each abutment does not endanger persons and property downstream of your dam and your own property. Consequently, the advice and recommendations herein are submitted to you by this Board simply for information purposes and for whatever action you wish to take.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ralph P. Walsh

William F. Stapleton

Francis M. O'Keefe

Acting  
Commissioner

October 19, 1960

Mr. Hugh C. Smith  
River Road  
No. Chester, Mass.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 253, Section 45, et seq. of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are hereby advised that your Dam located on Middle Branch of the Westfield River in North Chester, has been recently inspected by our Engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him.

"This dam is in the same general condition as noted in previous years. The timber structure extending across the entire width of the stream is in fairly good condition. The crest line is at good grade and it is relatively straight. Both abutment areas are becoming quite worn and dilapidated. Eventually stream flow will wash around one of the abutments and the pond will be lost as normal stream flow will then probably follow the diversion channel. Such an occurrence will not endanger persons and property downstream, since little water is stored by the dam. However, the occurrence of such a washout around an abutment would necessitate expensive repairs to restore the dam and its pond. If protective maintenance is done now, the possibility of expensive repairs at a later date may be avoided."

The information as contained in the report of the Engineer is sent to you herein so that you may take whatever action you wish regarding the protection of one or both of the abutments of your dam. As was pointed out by the County Hydraulic Engineer, the condition at each abutment does not endanger persons and property downstream of your dam and your own property. Consequently, the advice and recommendations herein are submitted to you by this Board simply for information purposes and for whatever action you wish to take.

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Very truly yours,

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Westfield Savings Bank Dam fka Steinhart Dam



1933 Chester

Located on Walker Brook - formerly owed by Estate of Theodore Steinhart.

City/Town	Chester
Dam	Steinhart Dam
Dam	Westfield Savings Bank Dam
Name	Steinhart, Theodore (est)
Water	Walker Brook

May 17, 1933

First National Bank,  
Westfield, Mass.

Re: Dam belonging to the Estate of  
Theodore Steinhart in  
Chester, Mass.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of Chapter 255 of the General Laws as amended by Chapter 534 of the Acts of 1923 and as further amended by Chapter 178 of the Acts of 1924 relative to the inspection, condition and safety of the dams of Hampden County, you are notified that the dam belonging to the Theodore Steinhart Estate, located on Walker Brook, so called, in the Town of Chester, has been inspected by our engineer and your attention is called to the following conditions noted and recommendations made by him;

"The dam is in such poor condition that it appears to be abandoned. It does not appear however, because of the small pondage formed thereby, that any material damage would result from released water in case the structure went out. Nevertheless if the dam is not going to be maintained and kept in repair it would seem advisable to have it removed or a substantial water way made through it for the free passage of the stream."

Any further information concerning this matter which you may desire will be furnished by this office upon request.

Yours very truly,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman.



**End of Book D04 ~ Dams ~ Town of Chester**